

From the Michigan Horse Council:

Fellow Trail Riders!

This issue needs your attention, please. Your legislators in Washington are working on a bill, detailed in the attached American Trails website, that could send potential trail dollars to Michigan! It is important to read and think about this bill, then contact your representative in Washington DC concerning your thoughts.

This is the bill that will/could provide the funds for the potential move of the Goose Creek Camp, and the proposed bridge crossing for the creek. I know many trail riders are upset about that, however, this fund is about monies for trails and trail camps - and the funding of them throughout the United States. We all know Michigan has been especially hard hit economically and we could use these dollars - but on our choice of projects, not necessarily the MDNR's choices.

What can YOU do? Don't get mad - Get Busy!!

Our responses to our Michigan representatives in Washington should be positive in that they are trying to funnel monies for our trails and camps, however, once those monies are allotted to the state it would be wonderful should the actual user groups in the state have a say in how the money is spent.

We know the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has plans for those monies that are not necessarily the trail riders wishes. Now is the time to speak up ([http://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com/Links.htm#State and Government Links](http://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com/Links.htm#State%20and%20Government%20Links)) - write those legislators! See State and Govt links Michigan can use that money, but let the user groups have a say in how it is spent!

Let's have our voices be heard! Don't get mad - get busy!!



Seasonal Reminders

from th MSU Eguine Newsletter

Toxic Plant Warning

There have been several reports of **Hoary alyssum** problems in Michigan pastures this summer. This weed can be toxic to horses when fed in the dry form in hay. This weed stands 1.5 - 4.0 feet tall, and has multiple white blooms and many rough hairs on the stem, leaves and seed pods. Symptoms may range within a group of horses but include colic, laminitis, early parturition, and lack of appetite. Deaths have occurred when horses consume hay containing 30-70% Hoary alyssum. If you suspect a problem with this weed, consult your county extension office or your veterinarian.

One Horse Diagnosed with Encephalitis

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced on August 10 that there was a reported case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a horse in Barry County. Birds harbor the virus that is transmitted to both horses and humans by mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds. Clinical signs of EEE (also known as sleeping sickness) in horses include fever, progressive muscle incoordination, paralysis, blindness, and an inability to rise and is usually fatal. While humans can get EEE from the same mosquito, the virus cannot be passed from horses to humans. Horses should be vaccinated for EEE and humans should take precautions to avoid contact with mosquitoes.

Buying Winter Hay

Now is the time to buy hay for the winter. While Michigan has had a good hay crop, the droughts in other parts of the country will cause an increased demand for hay shipments out of state. It is more cost effective to buy hay in large amounts in the summer. Remember that a laboratory chemical analysis of hay is the best indicator of hay quality.

